

chapter I.

How We Got Into This Situation

Lori Thomas, Jonathon's Mom

I just tucked Jonathon into bed. He gave me a hug and, with his sweetest smile, told me he loves me. My heart leaps when he says that. Tonight, I reflect back on the moment I first learned about Jonathon.

That day in November 2000 changed our lives forever. Our social worker called, and said she had a child that she would like us to consider adopting. He had a sad history, with several placements and a failed adoption. Would we please consider taking him into our home and family?

We met with the social worker and looked over his file. What we saw was a mess. Violence. Anger. Frustrated families. So much destruction, and the poor child was only four.

In our hearts we wanted to help him. We really did. But we had five other children to consider, including one with special needs. We absolutely could not accept this child. It would be unwise, and unfair to the others. We struggled with the decision. We said no.

A few weeks later, the social worker called again. They had found an adoptive home for the child, but needed a place for him to stay, temporarily. The adoptive home was not quite ready, but it looked like he would be able to move into that home in about four weeks. Could we consider taking this child in for just four weeks?

We can do just about anything for four weeks. Why not? We looked at the file again, saw the beautiful smiling face, and said yes. For four weeks we could take in this child. We would be happy to love him and care for him, temporarily.

So it was that on one bitterly cold afternoon in January, we met Jonathon. We loaded all of his belongings into our car. Our newest foster child came home.

*“Our family
has just taken
in a new
foster son.
His name is
Jonathon, he
is four years
old, and this
is his fourth
home.”*

This was not an heroic beginning to our journey. We did not bravely encounter the road ahead. We just agreed to parent a child for a few weeks. What could be so difficult about that?

As you read our story, I want you to keep that in mind. We agreed to a short-term placement. If we could have seen the road ahead, I am not sure we would have taken it.

That road, not taken, would have been the wrong path for all of us.

I hope you enjoy our journey.

Lori Thomas
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